



THE GATHERING WELL

PRINCIPLES OF MAKING DISCIPLES

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE



PRINCIPLES OF MAKING DISCIPLES

01 WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

02 RELATIONAL

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05 MAKING DISCIPLE-MAKERS



THE HEART OF *knowing Jesus*

The Gathering Well uses these three focus areas of Spiritual Formation to support our approach to the journey of faith.



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Communication with God is our starting point. Any resources with this icon are designed to support and equip you to pray, using Scripture as our primary lens and providing questions and prompts to encourage you to talk with God consistently.



STUDY THE BIBLE

All of our resources are anchored in the truth of God's Word. This icon will indicate spaces where you will engage the scriptures. We seek to provide educational resources and tools that will help God's Word come alive to you.



BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe that the life of faith is expressed in community, not isolation. Resources and prompts marked with this icon are geared toward reminding you that we are designed to be in relationship with God and with others.



REMINDERS AND TERMS

We are **first a disciple of Jesus**. Discipleship is the ancient practice of being a student or apprentice to someone or something. In many ways, we are all disciples and are being formed by someone or something around us. The invitation we're offered as sons and daughters of God is to be, first, a disciple of Jesus.

When we say yes to being a disciple of Jesus, we then get to say yes to being on mission to multiply! We get to say yes to inviting, guiding, and encouraging others to be a disciple of Jesus too. The below terms and definitions will help you as you continue growing in your understanding of what it means to make disciples.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Spiritual formation is an ancient way to describe the transformative process that takes place by the Holy Spirit's power, as we continually practice the habits of the life of faith in order to deepen our faith in Christ and become more like Him.

simply put.

Spiritual Formation is being transformed by the Holy Spirit to be more like Christ so that we may follow Him and live in Him.

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is a word widely used to describe a journey of spiritual growth. It is also commonly used among modern Christians and practicing Christians to describe the state of being a disciple of Jesus.

simply put.

Discipleship is following Jesus and living life in Him.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Making disciples happens when we thoughtfully enter into relationships and teach people who Jesus is, to follow all that He commanded us, and to invite others to join us as we continue to grow in our relationship with Him (see Matthew 28:18-20).

simply put.

Making disciples is intentionally inviting others to know and follow Jesus.

MAKING DISCIPLES IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God uses us to do His work, but He is ultimately the one who does it. Because our role in disciple-making is to be **relational** and **invitational**, it requires **patience** and **trust** in God's timing. It also requires love for a person as they decide when, how, and if they will choose to follow Jesus.

→ **Stay focused on your own spiritual formation:** being formed by the Spirit of Christ to be more like Christ – so that we may follow Him and live as He did.

We cannot be faithful in making disciples if we ourselves do not continue to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. What you are learning about the love of Jesus and a life with Jesus is what God will use to teach others. A heart of surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit will make disciples of people around you as you are going.

→ **Stay focused on your own discipleship:** following Jesus, living life as He did, and, as we do, seeking, inviting, and teaching others to do the same.

What challenges or troubles do you fear about making disciples?

What encourages or excites you in making disciples?

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

As a follower of Jesus, disciple-making is not trying to get someone to look like us and the way we follow Jesus. It is encouraging someone to consider how their own life can look like the life of Jesus and then equipping them with principles and practices that will help them follow Jesus in their desire to live like Him...not like us.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Ask God to remind you of the ways He has helped you learn how to know him and follow him in your life. What specific ways come to mind? Jot them down here.



STUDY THE BIBLE

Read 2 Timothy 2:8-14. What principles and practices does Paul share with Timothy that we can pass on to those God has called us to disciple?



BUILD COMMUNITY

Every relationship we have with others is an opportunity to make disciples. Relationships with people who know Jesus and relationships with people who don't yet know him. Who in your life can you invite into a next step of growing their relationship with Jesus?



MAKING DISCIPLES IS RELATIONAL

We seek opportunities to invite others **through the same relational ways God has encountered us**. God often uses **His word** and **His people** to invite us into a relationship with Himself. **You are God's people** (isn't that amazing!) and God can use you to help write a new story for a person and the people around you just as He can use those same people to continue writing your new story.

Seek to see people as God saw you.

How did God meet you in your circumstance?

Move at a pace for grace.

How can you take time and be intentional to get to know someone as a friend?

Pray this breath prayer:

breathe in: God help me to see

breathe out: As you see

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Use the invitations below to guide you in practicing relational disciple-making.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Pray and ask the Lord to make you relational as He is relational. Write down some words that come to mind when you meditate on this. What comes to mind when you consider how you can be relational?



STUDY THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 9:35-38. What does this passage teach us about the life that God wants for us as "workers in the field"?



BUILD COMMUNITY

Biblical community is not about creating space for insiders. It is about creating an outpost of God's love that anyone who sees it, also sees the invitation they have to be a part of it. Who around you knows Jesus? Who around you doesn't know Jesus? How can you pray for and get to know these people?



MAKING DISCIPLES IS INVITATIONAL

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus says, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." There are two key observations to note in this otherwise short and simple verse. The first is that Jesus invites the men he's talking to in this passage to follow him. The second is, He tells them that what he **will teach them to do is invite other people to do the same**. The disciples accept Jesus' invitation and then begin the journey of following Him to learn from Him as their master and teacher. "Making disciples" is "inviting others to know and follow Jesus too."

Pray and ask God to remind you of the ways you were invited to know and follow Jesus. Write down what He brings to mind.

What are ways that you can invite others to know and follow Jesus?

In your home

In your neighborhood

In your church

TIME TO REFLECT

Read and reflect on the following passages. How is Jesus invitational in these interactions?



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**MATTHEW
9:9-12**



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**MATTHEW
10:16-20**



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**JOHN
4:4-15**



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**MATTHEW
19:16-21**

MAKING DISCIPLES IS INTENTIONAL

Intentional disciple-making happens **on purpose** or **deliberately**. In some situations, this intentionality is **organic and happens because it is a part of our everyday rhythms of life**. In some situations, this intentionality is **sought out as a formal and mutual pursuit of one another**. In either situation, intentional disciple-making is your own deliberate decision to make disciples who know and follow Jesus.

Organic or everyday relationships allow us to practice disciple-making with those that God has chosen for us. Think of your co-workers, your family, or your classmates. In many ways, we don't get to choose these relationships, but God places people in our lives that He longs for us to pursue intentionally, so that they can know and follow Him more intimately.



PRAY. Who has God placed in your life that you can pursue more intentionally to help them know and follow Jesus?

Formal relationships allow us to practice disciple-making with those God has revealed to us that we may not interact with in our everyday lives. One of the greatest opportunities to engage in formal relationships is through the local church. Formal relationships can use additional support, materials, or provide a specific structure for your time that gives you a chance to be strategic in sharing Jesus.



PRAY. Who is God calling you to build a relationship with to help them know and follow Jesus?

TIME TO REFLECT

Read and reflect on the following passages. How is Jesus intentional in these interactions? How do you see Jesus choosing His words intentionally to connect with people?



MATTHEW
4:18-20



JOHN
3:1-15



JOHN
6:25-35



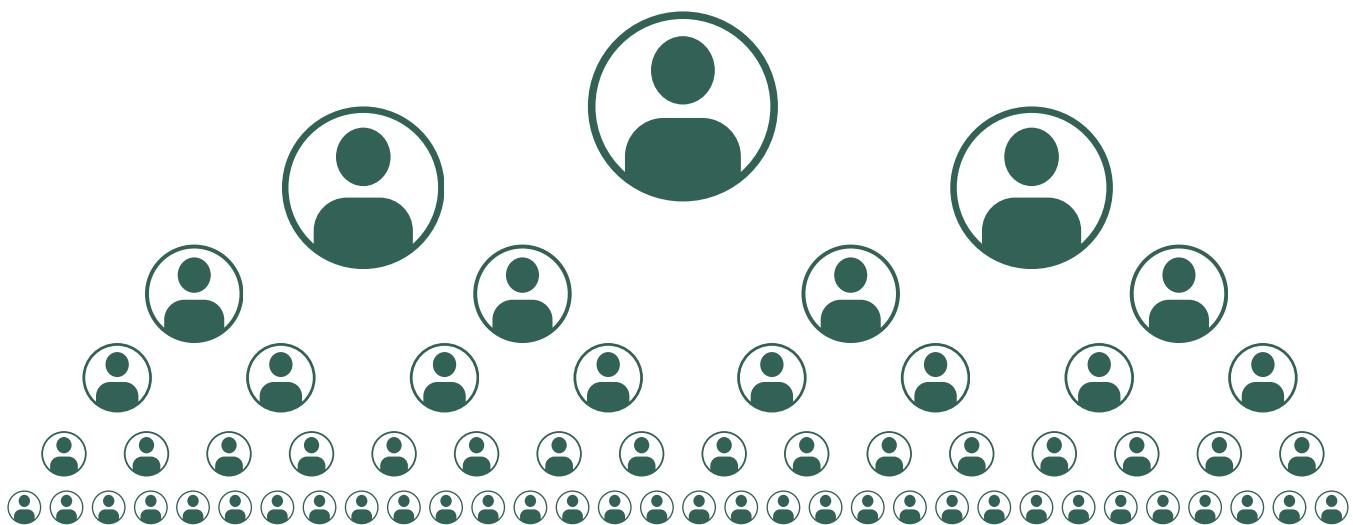
JOHN
11:17-44

MAKING DISCIPLES IS MAKING DISCIPLE-MAKERS

We know that's a mouthful! When you are a disciple and follower of Jesus, your life is one of the ways that God teaches others about who He is and His story of rescue, restoration, and redemption for them. **Disciple-making is a result of the Spirit at work in us – it's a natural next step for us as we follow Jesus.** It is a part of being **on mission to multiply** with a desire to make disciples **who also seek to make disciples.**

Being on mission to multiply **is the intentional desire and decision to allow God to build more outposts of His love by using your life to teach others how to do the same.** What would happen if each person you help make into a disciple becomes a disciple-maker, too?

Take a moment to look at the image below and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how that could impact our world.



Friend, it isn't about us. It's about **Him** and the abundant life that is available to all who believe in Him. As we deepen our relationship with Jesus by learning who He is and how to follow Him, we receive the biggest blessing that exists on this side of eternity -- **bringing someone else along with us.**

When those we encourage to be a disciple of Jesus become disciple-makers that do the same, we can see how God is working in each of us to help people in the world come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ that allows them to connect with our Father in Heaven.

TIME TO REFLECT

Use the questions below to help you reflect on how you have seen someone else go before you as a disciple-maker.

Before taking your next step in making disciples, ask yourself, is someone doing this with and for me? How will you be able to model disciple-making to others through your own personal relationships?

Think about the people who God has used to help make you a disciple. How does this encourage you, deepen your understanding, or increase your desire to do this for others?

What next step will you take from this place of reflecting on your own disciple-making posture? If you do not have someone modeling disciple-making, is there someone you can invite to do this with you?



HE SEES ME HERE

Still thinking? Still reflecting? Have questions? Here you go: use this page as you wish for your own prayers and musings.



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